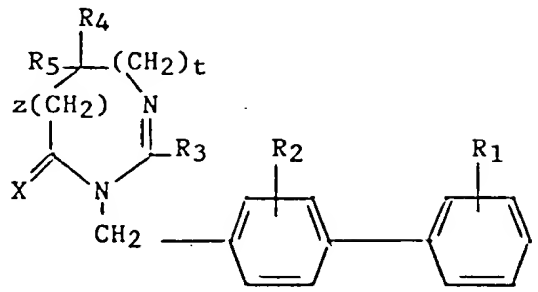
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of the formula



(I)

in which:

R_1 and R_2 are similar or different and are each independently hydrogen or a group selected from a C_1-C_6 alkyl, a C_1-C_4 alkoxy, an amino, an aminomethyl, a carboxyl, an alkoxycarbonyl in which the alkoxy is C_1-C_4, a cyano, a tetrazolyl, a methyltetrazolyl, a methylsulfonylamino, a trifluoromethylsulfonylamino, a trifluoromethylsulfonylaminomethyl, an N-cyanoacetamide, an N-hydroxyacetamide, an N-(4-carboxy-1,3-thiazol-2-yl)acetamide, a ureido, a 2-cyanoguanidinocarbonyl, a 2-cyanoguanidinomethyl, an imidazol-1-ylcarbonyl and a 3-cyano-2-methylisothioureidomethyl, with the proviso that at least one of the substituents R_1 or R_2 is other than hydrogen;

R_3 is a hydrogen, a C_1-C_6 alkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halogen atoms, a C_2-C_6 alkenyl, a C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, a phenyl, a phenylalkyl in which the alkyl is C_1-C_3, or a phenylalkenyl in which the alkenyl is C_2-C_3, said phenyl groups being unsubstituted or monosubstituted or polysubstituted by a halogen atom, a C_1-C_4 alkyl, a C_1-C_4 halogenoalkyl, a C_1-C_4 polyhalogenoalkyl, a hydroxyl or a C_1-C_4 alkoxy; and

either

- R_4 and R_5 are each independently a C_1-C_6 alkyl, a phenyl or a phenylalkyl in which the alkyl is C_1-C_3, said alkyl, phenyl and phenylalkyl groups being unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halogen atoms or by a group selected from a C_1-C_4 perfluoroalkyl, a hydroxyl and a C_1-C_4 alkoxy;
- or R_4 and R_5 together form a group of the formula $=CR_7R_8$, in which R_7 is hydrogen, a C_1-C_4 alkyl or a phenyl and R_8 is a C_1-C_4 alkyl or a phenyl;
- or else R_4 and R_5 together are either a group of the formula $(CH_2)_n$ or a group of the formula $(CH_2)_pY(CH_2)_q$, in which Y is either an oxygen atom, or a sulfur atom, or a carbon atom substituted by a C_1-C_4 alkyl group, a phenyl or a phenylalkyl in which the alkyl is C_1-C_3, or a group N-R_6, in which R_6 is a hydrogen, a C_1-C_4 alkyl, a phenylalkyl in which the alkyl is C_1-C_3, a C_1-C_4 alkylcarbonyl, a C_1-C_4 halogenoalkylcarbonyl, a C_1-C_4 polyhalogenoalkylcarbonyl, a benzoyl, an alpha-aminoacyl or an N-protecting group, or R_4 and R_5, together with the carbon atom to which they are bonded, form an indane or an adamantane;
- p + q = m;
- n is an integer between 2 and 11; and
- m is an integer between 2 and 5;

or

- R_4 is a C_1-C_6 alkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halogen atoms; and
- R_5 is a cycloalkyl or a cycloalkylmethyl, the cycloalkyl being C_3-C_7, which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halogen atoms;
- or R_4 and R_5 are each a cyclopropyl;
- X is an oxygen atom or sulfur atom; and
- z and t are zero or one is zero and the other is one;

and its salts.

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R_1 is in the ortho position and is a carboxyl or tetrazolyl group and R_2 is hydrogen.

3. A compound according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein R_4 and R_5 form a cyclopentane or a cyclohexane with the carbon to which they are bonded.

4. A compound according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein R_4 is methyl and R_5 is cyclohexyl.

5. A compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 wherein R_3 is a linear C_1-C_6 alkyl group.

6. A compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1 wherein X is oxygen.

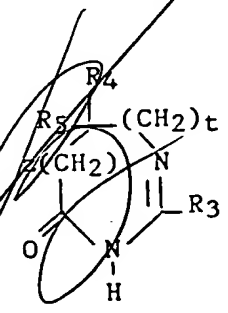
7. A compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1 wherein z = t = 0.

8. A compound according to claim 1 which is 2-n-butyl-4-spirocyclopentane-1-[(2'-(tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl)methyl]-2-imidazolin-5-one or one of its salts with acids or bases.

9. A compound according to claim 1 which is 2-n-butyl-4-methyl-4-cyclohexyl-1-[(2'-(tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl)methyl]-2-imidazolin-5-one or one of its salts with acids or bases.

10. A method of preparing a compound (I) according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, wherein:

a1) a heterocyclic derivative of the formula



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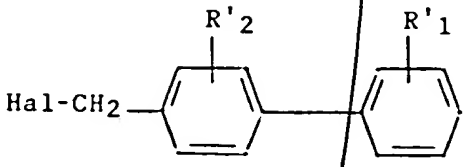
in which z, t, R_3, R_4 and R_5 are as defined for (I) in

claim 1, is reacted with a (biphenyl-4-yl)methyl derivative of the formula



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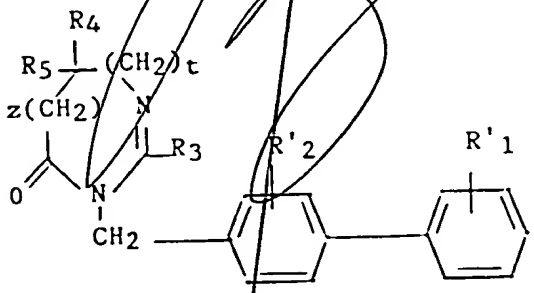
in which Hal is a halogen atom and R'_1 and R'_2 are respectively either R_1 and R_2 or a precursor group of R_1 and R_2;

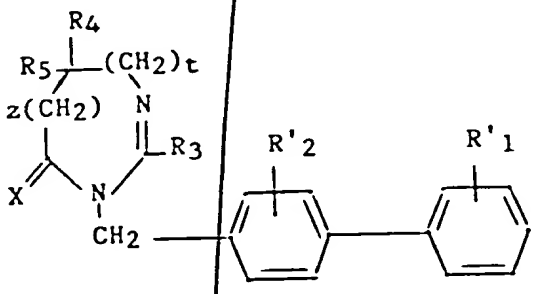
b1) if appropriate, the resulting compound of the formula



4

is treated with Lawesson's reagent [2,4-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,3-dithia-2,4-diphosphetane 2,4-disulfide]; and

c1) the compound obtained in a1) or b1), of the formula

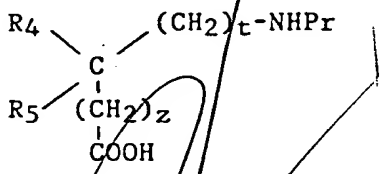


5

in which X is an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom, is treated to give the compound (I) by conversion of the groups R'_1 and/or R'_2 to the groups R_1 and/or R_2 respectively.

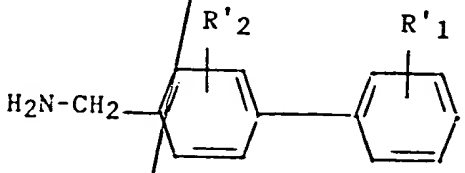
11. A method of preparing a compound (I) according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ Claim 1, wherein:

a2) an amino acid of the formula



7

in which z, t, R_4 and R_5 are as defined for (I) in claim 1, and of which the amine group is protected by the Pr group, is reacted with a (biphenyl-4-yl)methylamine derivative of the formula



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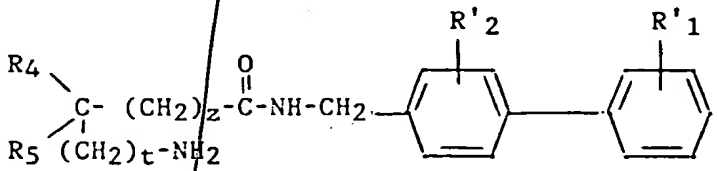
in which R'_1 and R'_2 are respectively either R_1 and R_2 or a precursor group of R_1 and R_2;

b2) after deprotection of the amine, the resulting compound of the formula



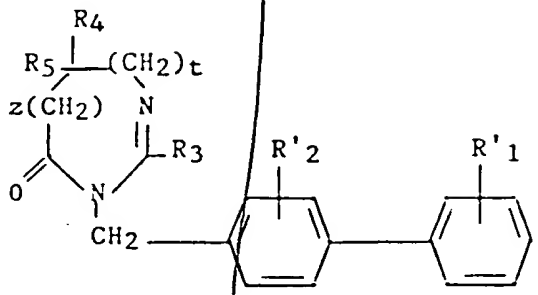
9

9

is then treated with an alkyl ortho-ester of the formula $R_3C(OR)_3$ (10), in which R_3 is as defined for

(I) in claim 1 and R is a C_1-C_4 alkyl;

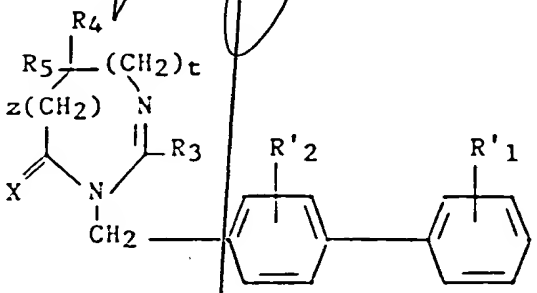
c2) if appropriate, the resulting compound of the formula



4

is treated with Lawesson's reagent [2,4-bis(4-methoxy-phenyl)-1,3-diatha-2,4-diphosphetane-2,4-disulfide]; and

d2) the compound thus obtained in b2 or c2, of the formula

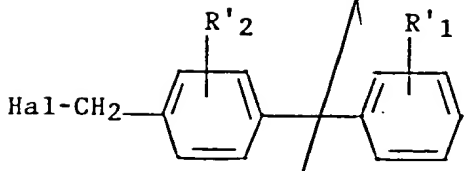


5

is then treated under suitable conditions for preparing the compound (I) by conversion of the groups R'_2 and/or R'_1 to the groups R_2 and/or R_1 respectively.

12. A method of preparing a compound (I) according to claim 7 in which R_5 is other than a cycloalkyl or a cycloalkylmethyl wherein the cycloalkyl is a C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, wherein:

a3) a (biphenyl-4-yl)methyl derivative of the formula



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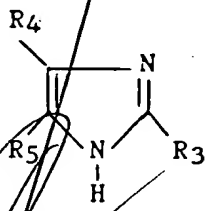
in which Hal is a halogen atom and R'_1 and R'_2 are respectively either R_1 and R_2 or a precursor group of R_1 and R_2, is reacted with an imidazole derivative of the formula



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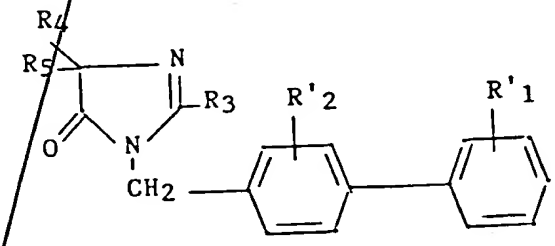
in which R_3, R_4 and R_5 are as defined for (I) in claim 1, in the presence of oxygen and UV irradiation and in a basic medium;

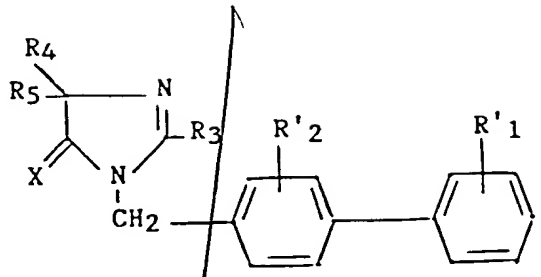
b3) if appropriate, the resulting compound of the formula



4'

is treated with Lawesson's reagent [2,4-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,3-dithia-2,4-diphosphetane 2,4-disulfide]; and

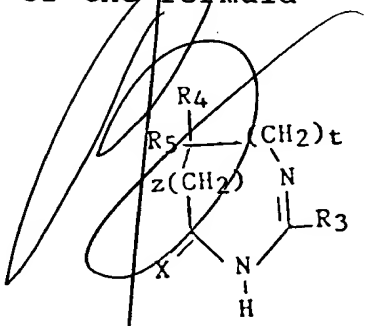
c3) the compound thus obtained in b3 or c3, of the formula



5'

is then treated under suitable conditions for preparing the compound (I) by conversion of the groups R'_1 and/or R'_2 to the groups R_1 and/or R_2 respectively.

13. A compound of the formula



(II)

in which:

- R_3 is a hydrogen, a C_1-C_6 alkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halogen atoms, a C_2-C_6 alkenyl, a C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, a phenyl, a phenylalkyl in which the alkyl is C_1-C_3, or a phenylalkenyl in which the alkenyl is C_2-C_3, said phenyl groups being unsubstituted or monosubstituted or polysubstituted by a halogen atom, a C_1-C_4 alkyl, a C_1-C_4 halogenoalkyl, a C_1-C_4 polyhalogenoalkyl, a hydroxyl or a C_1-C_4 alkoxy; and

either

- R_4 and R_5 are each independently a C_1-C_6 alkyl, a phenyl or a phenylalkyl in which the alkyl is C_1-C_3, said alkyl, phenyl and phenylalkyl groups being unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halogen atoms or by a group selected from a C_1-C_4 perfluoro-

alkyl, a hydroxyl and a C_1-C_4 alkoxy;

- or R_4 and R_5 together form a group of the formula $=CR_7R_8$, in which R_7 is hydrogen, a C_1-C_4 alkyl or a phenyl and R_8 is a C_1-C_4 alkyl or a phenyl;
- or else R_4 and R_5 together are either a group of the formula $(CH_2)_n$ or a group of the formula $(CH_2)_pY(CH_2)_q$, in which Y is either an oxygen atom, or a sulfur atom, or a carbon atom substituted by a C_1-C_4 alkyl group, a phenyl or a phenylalkyl in which the alkyl is C_1-C_3, or a group N-R_6, in which R_6 is a hydrogen, a C_1-C_4 alkyl, a phenylalkyl in which the alkyl is C_1-C_3, a C_1-C_4 alkylcarbonyl, a C_1-C_4 halogenoalkylcarbonyl, a C_1-C_2 polyhalogenoalkylcarbonyl, a benzoyl, an alpha-aminoacyl or an N-protecting group, or R_4 and R_5, together with the carbon atom to which they are bonded, form an indane or an adamantane;
- p + q = m;
- n is an integer between 2 and 11;
- m is an integer between 2 and 5;
- X is an oxygen atom or sulfur atom; and
- z and t are zero or one is zero and the other is one;

with the limitation that

- if z and t are zero and X is an oxygen atom, R_4 and R_5 are other than
  - a C_1-C_6 alkyl, a phenyl or a phenylalkyl in which the alkyl is C_1-C_3, said alkyl, phenyl and phenylalkyl groups being unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halogen atoms or by a group selected from a C_1-C_4 perfluoroalkyl, a hydroxyl and a C_1-C_4 alkoxy;
  - or R_4 and R_5 together are other than a group N-R_6 in which R_6 is a hydrogen, a C_1-C_4 alkyl or a phenylalkyl in which the alkyl is C_1-C_3; and
  - n is other than 6; or

when R_3 represents a substituted phenyl group, R_4 and R_5 together are other than a $(CH_2)_n$ group in which n is between 3 and 5;

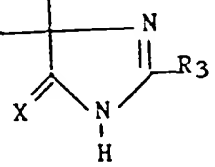
and

- if z = 1 and R_3 is a phenyl, R_4 and R_5 are each other than a methyl;

or

- R_4 is a C_1-C_6 alkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halogen atoms; and
- R_5 is a cycloalkyl or a cycloalkylmethyl, said cycloalkyl being C_3-C_7, which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halogen atoms;
- or R_4 and R_5 are each a cyclopropyl;
- X is an oxygen atom or sulfur atom; and
- z and t are zero or one is zero and the other is one.

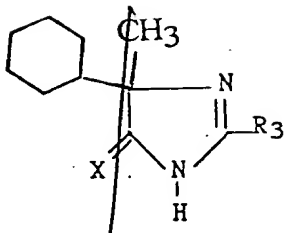
14. A compound according to claim 13 of the formula



(II'$_a$)

in which X is an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom and R_3 is a hydrogen, a C_1-C_6 alkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halogen atoms, a C_2-C_6 alkenyl, a C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, a phenyl, a phenylalkyl in which the alkyl is C_1-C_3, or a phenylalkenyl in which the alkenyl is C_2-C_3, said phenyl groups being unsubstituted or monosubstituted or polysubstituted by a halogen atom, a C_1-C_4 alkyl, a C_1-C_4 halogenoalkyl, a C_1-C_4 polyhalogenoalkyl, a hydroxyl or a C_1-C_4 alkoxy; with the proviso that R_3 is other than a substituted phenyl group when X is oxygen.

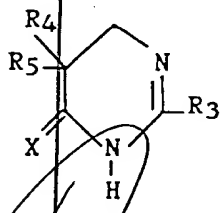
15. A compound according to claim 13 of the formula



(II'$_b$)

in which X and R_3 are as defined for (II) in claim 13.

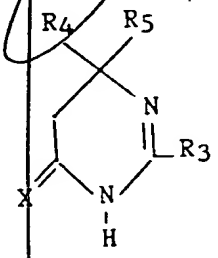
16. A compound according to claim 13 of the formula



(II'')

in which R_3, R_4, R_5 and X are as defined above for (II) in claim 13.

17. A compound according to claim 13 of the formula



(II''')

in which X, R_3, R_4 and R_5 are as defined for (II) in claim 13.

18. A method of preparing a compound according to ~~any one of claims 13 to 17~~ claim 13, which comprises reacting a compound of the formula

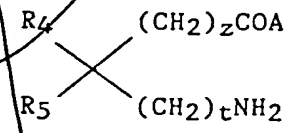
R_3-B (14)

in which R_3 is as defined above for (II) in ~~claims 13 to 16~~ claim 13,

~~and B is~~

- a group $C(OR)_3$
- a group  or
- a group COHal

R being a C_1-C_4 alkyl and Hal denoting a halogen atom, preferably chlorine, with a compound of the formula



13

in which R_4 and R_5 are as defined above for (II) in claim 13 and A is an OH group, an NH_2 group or a group OR', R' being hydrogen or a C_1-C_4 alkyl, and then, if appropriate, treating the resulting compound with Lawesson's reagent (2,4-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,3-dithia-2,4-diphosphetane-disulfide).

~~19~~ 10. A pharmaceutical composition in which a compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1 is present as the active principle.

~~20~~ 11. A pharmaceutical composition in which 0.1 to 1000 mg of a compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1 is present in association with a beta-blocking compound.

~~21~~ 12. A pharmaceutical composition in which 0.1 to 1000 mg of a compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1 is present in association with a diuretic.

~~22~~ 13. A pharmaceutical composition in which 0.1 to 1000 mg of a compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1 is present in association with a non-steroidal antiinflammatory.

~~23~~ 14. A pharmaceutical composition in which 0.1 to 1000 mg of a compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1 is present in association with a calcium antagonist.

~~24~~ 15. A pharmaceutical composition in which 0.1 to 1000 mg of a compound

a according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ is present in association with a tranquilizer.

END

105